

TYPE SPECIMENS OF TWO SEED BUG SPECIES
FROM JAPAN DESCRIBED BY P. R. UHLER
(HETEROPTERA: LYGAEOIDEA:
PACHYGRONTHIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: Examination of the U.S. National Museum of Natural History for specimens of two Uhler-described Japanese species of the genus *Pachygrontha* Germar confirmed the "holotype" status of one specimen of *Pachygrontha similis* and made necessary the designation of a lectotype for *Peliosoma* Uhler [now in *Pachygrontha*] *antennata*.

At the request of J. Péricart, who is preparing "lygaeoid" sections of the upcoming *Catalogue of Palaearctic Heteroptera*, the National Museum of Natural History Heteroptera collection was searched for the type material of two Japanese species described by P.R. Uhler. The results showed one of those species to have had a single specimen indicated as the "type" in conformity with the original description, whereas a lectotype designation is needed for the other.

Pachygrontha antennata antennata (Uhler)

Peliosoma antennata Uhler (1860:229). The "type" numbers on the two syntypes listed here are not relevant to this examination because they were assigned to the specimens much later, after the Smithsonian's Department of Entomology Type Book was begun in 1894; that type book was abandoned in the 1980's when a new, computerized listing of types was begun.

In the original description of this species, reference was made to both sexes; thus Uhler had at least two specimens. Two potential syntypes were found. One is a male pinned through the scutellum, with the following parts missing:- antennal segment IV on the right side, anterior tibia and tarsus on the right side, left femur badly damaged by dermestids; and rostral segments II-IV. This specimen bears four labels:- (1) in Uhler's handwriting, *Peliosoma antennata* mihi," "Simoda"; (2) a second label in a different script, *Peliosoma antennata* mihi" (obviously copying the first label), and a line of print "Det Uhler"; (3) "PRUhler Collection"; and (4) a red label reading "Type No, 25856 U.S.N.M." Because this is the only available specimen labeled from the locality given in the original description, it hereby is designated the lectotype and given a red label:- "Lectotype, *Peliosoma antennata* Uhler, by Froeschner 1999."

The second specimen, also a male pinned through the scutellum, is without locality but has two labels:- (1) an identification label in Uhler's handwriting:

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Pachygrontha antennata Uhler, Japan"; (2) a red label Paratype No.25856 U.S.N.M." Obviously, the identification label was affixed to the specimen at a later date, but that does not preclude the specimen's having been in Uhler's hands at the time of the original description. The original description contained a single measurement of 8 mm, and both specimens at hand are of that length. Now added is a red label: Paralectotypes, *Peliosoma antennata* Uhler, by Froeschner 1999."

Additional Japanese specimens at hand had been donated to the Smithsonian Institution by Dr. K. Mitzukuri after the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago (as reported by Uhler 1896:255) and so cannot be part of the original series.

This species was transferred to the genus *Pachygrontha* by Stål (1874:141) and was given nominate subspecies status by Slater (1955:72).

Pachygrontha similis Uhler

Pachygrontha similis Uhler (1896:264). Four specimens from the type series were found. One bore a red label agreeing with the original description's statement, "Type.-No. 3100, U.S.N.M." and must be considered the holotype. This carded specimen is a complete female. It bears four labels as follows:- (1) Glued to the underside of the specimens-bearing card is a small square of paper with Japanese script for "Gifu, 25, 90 No. 7; (2) Plain paper with handwritten number (in ink) "1253"; (3) Hand-written "*Pachygrontha similis* Uhler," NOT Uhler's handwriting; (4) Red "Type No. 3100 U.S.N.M." A "holotype" label has now been added to the pin.

The three other specimens, each now labeled with a blue "Paratype" label, include:- (First) A damaged female pinned through the scutellum, with following parts missing: antennal segments III and IV on the left side and II-IV on the right, all tarsal segments on left side, and tarsi II and III on the right anterior leg. Its labels are (1) "*P. achygrontha similis* Uhler, Japan" in Uhler's handwriting. (2) "Paratype, No. 25856 U.S.N.M." The latter label refers to the above-mentioned, now obsolete type catalog.

(Second) A female, head and prothorax reattached to body with glue, pinned through scutellum, with following parts missing: left antennals III-IV and all of right antenna, left front leg and middle and hind tibiae and tarsi. Its labels are (1) with two lines of badly faded script (scribe?), "Simo" on one line and a second line that could be interpreted as "Jap"; (2) "PRUhler Collection;" (3) an identification label "*Pachygrontha similis* Uhl. Det. J.A. Slater, 1957."

(Third) A female pinned through scutellum, abdomen glued to pinned card, and with following parts missing: right front leg, left middle tibia and tarsus, and both hind tarsi; with label, "PRUhler Collection."

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